

FORM B - BUILDING

Date (month / year): June 2018

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Hanson Historical Commission

92-0-14-0	Hanover		HNS.225
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Town/City: Hanson

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 40 Liberty Street

Historic Name: Rev. Wales Cabinet Making
Shop

Uses: Present: Single-Family Dwelling

Original: Cabinet Making Shop

Date of Construction: ca. 1815-1817

Source: White's History, Plan No. 6, Page 106

Style/Form: Altered/No Style

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood Shingle/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Stockade fence, above ground pool

Major Alterations (with dates): Addition to west façade and second floor over original building (ca. 1920s), wood shingle siding, hip roof, entry portico, and window alterations

Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**
Prior to 1879

Acreage: 1.08 Acres

Setting: Located near a busy intersection on one of Hanson's main thoroughfares with commercial buildings and parking areas to the north and a residential area characterized by single family homes on large lots to the south.

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The two-story structure has an asphalt shingled hip roof over a rectangular footprint. The house has been doubled in size at least twice with the addition of a second floor over the original, one or one-and-a-half story structure and a two-story addition of equal size to the west façade of the house. The house is wood shingle sided with wood corner boards and trim. The hip roof overhangs the facades of the building on all four sides but there is no evidence of rafter tails or other architectural details below its projecting eaves. The double hung windows on the house are of several different sizes but are all two-over-one wood windows with storm windows over them. A narrow brick chimney with a slanting concrete cap is located near the roof ridge at the western end of the house.

The house faces east towards the road and has a projecting central entry which is also a later addition to the house. The entry has a low hip roof that extends out around the wood shingled sides of the entrance porch and double hung windows at the center of its north and south facades. A metal replacement door is located at the center of the east façade at the top of a short cement stoop with steps leading into the yard. Two closely spaced double hung windows are located to either side of the entrance with a band of wood trim running above them across the façade. This trim appears to run below the hip roof of the entrance porch and may be a remnant of the cornice trim on the original house. The two second floor windows are noticeably smaller than the first floor windows and are set high on the façade. The unusual height of the windows and their location at either end of the façade creates a large, blank space at the center of the façade which makes the east façade seem unusually tall.

On the south and north façades, the second floor windows are also tucked below the roof eaves but their height is less noticeable because the windows themselves are larger. On the south façade, a band of wood trim runs down the center of the façade, providing a clear indication as to where the original house ends and the western addition begins. To the east, each floor has a double hung windows in each corner and the stone foundation of the original house is visible. To the west of the trim, three double hung windows are grouped together on the second floor over a single window on the first floor and the siding extends to the ground. On the north façade, a wood stockade fence extends from the northeast corner of the house to the north, obscuring the lower half of the building from view. A one-story, hip roofed addition has been added to the center of the north façade which has wide wood eaves extending below the roof's edge that are not seen elsewhere on the house. The addition has a single window at the center of its north façade which projects out from the northeast corner of the addition under the overhanging roof. A single double hung window is visible to either side of the addition. On the second floor, a tall double hung window is located at each end of the façade with two shorter windows located at the center.

While the building dates to the early nineteenth century, little of its existing appearance dates to that period. According to local historian Allan Clemons, the house was extensively remodeled during the 1920s at which time a second story was added to the building, its roof was changed to the existing hip roof, and an addition was

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added to its west façade. Additional changes including the new entrance portico, window alterations, and siding changes may also have been made in the 1920s or later in the twentieth century.

An asphalt-paved driveway runs along the south façade of the house to a paved parking area at the rear of the building. The stockade fence extends only part way to the north property line and an above ground pool is located to the north of the house. Large bushes and foundation plantings are located in planting beds along the stone foundation to the east and south of the house and a row of trees and plantings extend along the south property line adjacent to the driveway. Numerous mature trees are visible to the west of the house, but the north and east sides of the property are open grass lawn with a few mature trees and a backhoe situated to the northeast of the house.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

According to White's History of Hanson, this structure was built sometime between 1815 and 1817 and originally used as a cabinet makers' shop located "near the stone wall between the house of Mrs. R.C. Cushman and that of William E. Barker." The shop was owned by Reverend Nathaniel Wales (1792-1829), who was married to Sarah Copeland(1797-1844).In his 2014 update, Allen Clemons notes that the was original located on the site of the current Leighton Funeral Home located on the northwestern corner of West Washington Street and Spring Street.

Rev. Wales died in 1829 and the 1830 Smith Plan shows "S. Wales" as still livingin the house. In 1834, Sarah E. Wales married Martin Beal (1805-1876). Martin used the building to make coffins, marking the beginning of the funeral home trade located in this corner of Hanson. Sarah died in 1844 at age 47. Martin was remarried in 1857 to Lucy S. Wadsworth (1810-1879) and by the 1879 U.S. Census was working as a cabinetmaker in North Bridgewater.

According to White, the house was later sold to Elijah Cushing (1806-1868) and moved to its present location on Liberty Street. No structures appear in this area of Liberty Street until the 1879 Walker Atlas when "Mrs. Cushing," likely Elijah's wife, Eliza Cushing (1802-1880), the daughter of Cornelius Cobb and Betsey Thomas, appears as the owner of a home near the corner of Liberty and Washington at the current site of 40 Liberty Street. In 1900, Elijah's sons, George (1832-1916) and Theodore Cushing (1838-1919), sold several lots from Elijah's estate to their nephew and son, Frank Cushing.¹ Frank is shown as the owner of a house on the corner of Liberty and Washington Street on the 1903 Richards Atlas. In 1907, Frank sold the property to Nellie M. Wills. By the 1910 U.S. Census, Frank and his wife, Ida (nee Lincoln), had moved to Los Angeles, California where he worked as a salesman in a hardware store.

Nellie M. Wills later sold the home to Albert H. and May P. Patterson in 1921.² Soon after the sale, the home went into foreclosure and was acquired by Emma C. Heavens.³ A year later, Francis and Emma C. Heavens sold the property to Emma Barker in 1922.⁴ After this the home changed hands several times. White's History notes that the house was occupied by an African American family named Prince after its move to Liberty Street. This is presumably Martin Prince(1799-1869) and his wife Esther (Freeman) Prince (1801-1866), who are listed as having a family of nine in the 1850 U.S. Census. Martin was a shoemaker as were Joshua, Charles and Augustus

¹ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 817, Pages 30-32

² Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1395, Page 385

³ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1395, Page 387

⁴ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1411 Page 336

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Prince, and Anthony Franks, all of whom lived in the household at that time. By the 1855 state census, Martin Prince's household included 10 members, although the above-named adult males had all left, and the Princes were joined by 28 year old Esther Ashporte and her three children. The entire Prince family is identified in Report of the Governor and Council Concerning the Indians of the Commonwealth (1861) as "Mamattakeesett Indians". White also notes that a Charles Whitcomb was in residence while he was working on his history, presumably after the Princes had left the property.

In 1924, Herbert and Emma J. Barker sold the home to Isaac Joseph and Annie Blanche (nee McNamara) Sanville who remained in the house until their deaths.⁵ As many of the changes to the house, including the addition of a second story, rear addition, and entrance portico have been dated to the 1920s, it is assumed that this work was completed during the Sanvilles residency. Isaac Joseph Sanville, originally from Vermont, owned and operated a barber shop after moving to Hanson. Charles Sanville, their eldest son, inherited the property in 1949 after the death of his parents.⁶ Charles J. and Juanita Y. Sanville sold the home to Edwin and Hazel Ruel in 1962.⁷ Edwin Ruel, a route salesman for a bakery, died in 2009 and current owners Daniel and Debra Heath purchased the home from his widow, Hazel Ruel that same year.⁸

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⁵ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1472, Page 18

⁶ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 2059, page 381

⁷ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 2952 Page 440

⁸ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 37483, Page 199

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